Complaints against falsification of voters lists in Tripura

1013. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Election Commissioner of India has received any complaint in regard to falsification of voter's list while enrolling voters for 1989 in Tripura;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a Central team was sent to look into the complaint in detail in regard to the inclusion of minors and Bangladeshi nationals in these lists; and

(c) if so, the results of the investigations made by the Central team in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Election Commission had received certain complaints alleging *inter alia* that in the preparation of the draft electoral rolls in Tripura ineligible persons had been included and those eligible excluded. The Commission asked the Chief Electoral Officer to look into the complaints and also sent its team to Tripura for on-the-spot verification, etc. It was found that the allegations were generally not true. After considering claims and objections as per procedure, the electoral rolls in Tripura have also been finally published on 16.5.1989 and the Election Commission has not also received any complaints after the final publication of the rolls.

Clearance of Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala

1014. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance from environmental angle has been given to Pooyamkutty Hydro Electric Project in Kerala State; and

(b) if so, when and if not, what are the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, this Project was accorded environmental approval in June, 1985 but has subsequently been rejected from forestry angle in November, 1988

Pending cases in Kerala High Court

1015. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases pending in Kerala High Court at present;

(b) what is the number of cases pending since the last ten years and five years respectively; and

(c) whether the number of judges in Kerala High Court is proposed to be increased in the light of large number of pending cases?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) and (b) As on 30.6.1989, 38607 Main cases were pending in Kerala High Court. The number of cases pending since last ten years and five years were 14 and 4969 respectively.

(c) A decision has been taken to create 5 new posts of Additional Judges with effect from the dates appointments are made against these posts.

Price of Natural Rubber

1016. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of rubber imported during 1989 so far and the price at which this is released;

(b) the price of the natural rubber produced in the country; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the floor price of natural rubber produced in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) STC was authorised to import 30,000 MTs of natural rubber upto June, 1989. Out of this 27005 MTs have been imported so far.

The release price during April-June 1989 was Rs. 23,573 PMT ex-godown Madras and from 10th July, 1989 the same is Rs. 27,400 PMT ex-godown, Madras.

(b) The prevailing price of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the Kottayam market is Rs. 25,000 per tonne as on 20th July, 1989.

(c) In view of the present level of prices which are sufficiently remunerative, Govt. does not consider it necessary to fix any floor price.

Payment of subsidy to coffee cultivators

1017. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outstanding amount of coffee subsidy to be paid to the cultivators; and

(b) by when this amount is likely to be paid to the cultivators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) and

(b) The claims of Rs. 12.78 lakhs for payment of subsidies are pending with the Coffee Board. The claims will be settled after the spot inspection of the areas concerned is completed.

Pending applications of freedom fighters from Kerala

1018. SHRI THOMAS KUTHIRAVATTOM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of applications from the freedom fighters of Kerala are pending in his Ministry for grant of pension;

(b) if so, what is the number of applications pending as on 30th June, 1989; and

(c) what action Government propose to take to finalise these cases expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No timely application is pending from the freedom fighters of Kerala in this Ministry for grant of pension

(b) and (c) As on 30th June, 1989 one case received hroutgh the Government of Kerala in December, 1985 was pending for want of certain clarifications from them. Clarifications have been received from the Government of Kerala and pension has since been sanctioned to the applicant.

Steps to protect ozone layer

1019. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is a party to the Vienna Convention and the Motreal Protocol for Commonwealth countries to protect the ozone layer; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to protect ozone layer, which is being destroyed by various modern scientific processes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) No, Sir.